

Minutes:
General Faculty Meeting
Approved Minutes
Wednesday 29 March 2006
3:00 pm in Kennedy Lounge

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:08pm. A quorum was present. Dr. Jenkins presided, in the absence of Dr. Sabutis.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved with one amendment—the inclusion of an item for a report from the NMHU Faculty Association—unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes, General Faculty Meeting of 30 Nov 2005:** Approved with one amendment, unanimously.
4. **Remarks by Mr. Javier González, Chair NMHU Board of Regents:** Dr. Jenkins introduced Regent González, Chair of the NMHU Board of Regents. Regent González spoke to the faculty at length. He began by thanking the faculty for their contributions to several new or revised programs. He then discussed the need for the faculty to contribute to dialogue with the administration and regents in addressing several challenges. He noted the need for attention to the issues of retention and recruitment, and noted the need to develop programs relevant and attractive to the students. He further noted the need to discuss the role of the off-campus centers and the relationship between the centers and the main campus. He reaffirmed the support of the Board of Regents for the collective bargaining process, and noted that—despite the inevitable difficulties—that there was a shared goal, the development of an acceptable collective contract. He spoke briefly about the university's limited success during the recent legislative session, and lamented the passing of two students during the recent spring break. After his succinct remarks, Regent González fielded questions, and a lively discussion ensued (as if you didn't know that!). Among the issues raised

were: the precise mechanisms for involving the faculty in discussions about the nature and direction of NMHU, the direction of higher education in New Mexico, the increasingly intense competition between the various institutions of higher education, ongoing problems of turnover among faculty, administration, and regents, the lack of a clearly defined direction that all stakeholders accept, and faculty pay and workloads. Chairman González was momentarily taken aback by a question about the role and permanence of the current president, but then responded with circumspection about the discussions underway with the president about his role. Dr. Jenkins raised the issue of accreditation, and the 2004 focus visit by the NCA team. She reminded all present of the concerns relayed by the team at that time about the governance structure, and the need to have an agreed-upon system in place and in use before 2006. Another lively discussion ensued, in which a number of faculty raised concerns about accreditation and explained their experiences in this difficult area. Student Senate President López was recognized by Dr. Jenkins, and he expressed his thanks for the faculty; he asked Regent González about President Aragón's position, and expressed a desire on behalf of the students for administrative stability and predictability. Regent González noted that the president has the ultimate decision about whether he will accept any new role outlined for him. He finished with a call for faculty input and support; he then departed amid applause.

5. Report from NMHU Faculty Association: Dr. Jenkins turned the floor over to Dr. Ward, who provided a brief report on the activities of the Association, and pleaded with faculty to turn in their surveys, sent out some weeks before by the association. A lively discussion ensued.

6. Adjournment: Having lost its quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter S. Linder
Secretary